

ROMNEY MARSH GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting was held at the Board Room, New Romney, on Friday, when there were present: Mr. J. L. Hutchings (chairman), Mr. R. W. P. Jones (vice-chairman), Lieut.-Col. Pennefather, Messrs E. Stuart Pinn, F. Bates, C. Unsted, T. R. Tickner, G. Vidler, J. J. Jones and Bede Hobbs, and Mr. James Bannan (clerk).

STATISTICS.

The following returns were presented: First week of fortnight—In the House, 57 against 65; 146 warrants, 76 against 61; outdoor poor relieved, 146 at a cost of £16 1s. 10d., against 133 at a cost of £16 3s. Second week—In the House, 68 against 61; warrants, 68 against 65; outdoor poor relieved, 148 at a cost of £16 6s. 10d., against 133 at a cost of £16 12s. 10d.

GIFTS.

The Master reported gifts of magazines and papers for the inmates from Mr. J. Jones and family, Dymchurch; and tobacco for the old men from Mr. Hutchings. The customary votes of thanks were unanimously passed.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The same members were present.

RESIGNATION.

A letter was read from Colonel Pennefather stating that it was not his intention to seek re-election as County Councillor for the electoral division of Romney Marsh at the next election of the Council in March. At the same time he wished to thank the Council for their kindness and the cordial support they had invariably given him.—The Chairman said he hoped Colonel Pennefather would reconsider his decision.—Colonel Pennefather said he had given the matter careful consideration before arriving at the decision he had. He regretted he felt compelled to take the step he had, because the work was interesting.—On the proposition of Mr. Tickner, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Colonel Pennefather for his services.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

The following report was presented by Dr. Hick: "There are two changes in the conditions bearing on the health of the district to which I would call your attention. The first is the improved manner of dealing with the excess of water in the low lying lands around Brookland. Although the past year was one of the wettest on record, I have observed much less flooding than heretofore. This is of manifest advantage to the health of the inhabitants. The second is the somewhat rapid growth of the village of Dymchurch, some dozen or so of new houses being partially or completely built during the year. This makes more urgent the necessity of dealing at once in an effective manner with the questions of drainage and water supply. The question of the drain has been considered by you so far as the Dunkirk and branch is concerned, and on your deciding that the drain should be lengthened, temporary arrangements were made for dealing with the sewage of the new houses built by Mr. Smith. It is urgently necessary that an end should be put to the present state of affairs, the extension of the drain completed or the owner of the new cottages advised that he must not look for it, and must make permanent arrangements to deal with the sewage himself. In view of the building going on between the High-street and the sea wall, attention should be given to the question of providing a new branch drain for these new houses, which at present are draining into cesspools. The drain must be provided sooner or later, and when it is the money spent on cesspools will be so much wasted; further, the Council should decidedly oppose the fouling of the soil by sewage escaping from unsealed cesspools. The question of a water supply for Dymchurch is a most urgent one and should be dealt with at once by the Council. There are two or three schemes on the way, and there should be no difficulty in the Council coming to terms with the promoters of one or another. As I have pointed out repeatedly, the use of water closets make the question of water supply a more urgent one. I repeatedly find the hand-flushed closets in a filthy condition, and it is only by the exercise of the utmost diligence on the part of your inspector that they are kept even moderately decent. I made a house to house visitation of the village of Brookland, and reported to you that a large number of houses had cesspools with an overflow into the sewer. I advised that these should be done away with, and suggested that the drain in the High-street should be arranged to carry the slop water as well as the rain to the large cesspool near the bridge. Your inspector served notices, and in most cases alterations were carried out. I reported a house in Dymchurch as needed cleansing. This was done. In Dr. Fletcher's report, he mentions the closets in Marine Terrace, Dymchurch. I saw the owner on the matter, but nothing has been done, as I can state from my own experience that at times they are most offensive. In February, 1902, I reported that the cottage at St. Mary's occupied by Mrs. Howe was not fit for occupation on account of its damp condition. It is still occupied. I reported to you in October that the sanitary condition of Brenzett School was such that it was not fit for the assembling of children. Notice was served on the managers requiring them to close the school until the necessary alterations were completed. The alterations are being made now, and I have met the managers and their builder a good many times. I have had two cases of erysipelas notified during the year and one case of scarlatina. These were removed to the hospital. In October I had notification of a case of diphtheria at Brenzett, followed by eight others in Snargate and Ivychurch. One case was removed to the hospital. The last case notified was on December 21st. There were 71 births during the year, giving a rate of 27.7 per 1,000, and 36 deaths, which, with ten deaths in the Union Workhouse, makes a total of 46 deaths for the district, giving a rate of 17.9. Twenty-two of these deaths were of persons over 65."—Mr. Hobbs said the Brenzett School would be finished in another week.—Mr. Hick said the most serious matter in his report was the drainage and water supply at Dymchurch.—In reply to Mr. Bannan as to what schemes for water supply there were, Mr. Hick stated there was the scheme of Mr. Tubbs, one of the Elham Valley Water Company, and the other was the Council's own scheme.—Mr. Bannan said there was no Bill or Provisional Order from Elham Valley Company to supply Dymchurch. If the Council decided to go on with its own scheme it would be necessary to make Dymchurch a water area, and there would have to be a half-yearly rate on Dymchurch to meet the cost of the supply, but the Council's action in the matter had been opposed by the Parish Council, who had approached the Local Government Board, and nothing definite had been yet heard from the last named.—It was decided to have the report printed and circulated amongst the members and to send a copy to the Dymchurch Parish Council, calling attention to the complaints made with regard to the water supply and drainage of that village.

THE WATER SCHEME.

On this question the Council went into committee.

ENGLISHMEN IN TROUBLE.

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FANCY DRESS BALL.

Mr. A. Brown was re-elected vice-president and chairman of committee, and, in accepting the office, mentioned that he took a great deal of interest in the Society, and had been a member for a very long time. He was very pleased to see they had a balance in hand, and thought it was the first time they had been in that position during his experience. He assured the members he would do his best for the Society. —Mr. Daniel Swaffler was re-elected vice-chairman of committee, and Messrs. A. Brown, Daniel Swaffler, W. Pledge, R. S. Strouts, and H. Rigden were re-elected the Finance Committee. —The ordinary Committee were re-elected with the exception of Messrs. J. V. Pepper (Ashford) and J. J. Young (Wye), while the names of Mr. H. B. Parsons (Eastwell) and the Chairman and Secretary of the Ashford Chamber of Commerce for each current year (at present Messrs. G. Knowles and J. M. Poncia) were added to the Committee. —Mr. E. Davis was re-elected auditor, and Mr. A. J. Burrows secretary and treasurer, with Mr. R. H. Burrows assistant secretary. —In moving Mr. Burrows' re-appointment, the Chairman said, as vice-president and chairman of committee, he came into closer contact with Mr. Burrows than most of the members, and he could assure them that Mr. Burrows worked very hard indeed for the success of the Society. They were very much indebted to him for the energy he put into it. —Mr. Burrows, in reply, assured the members he should continue to do his utmost for the success of the show. He was very glad to be able to show such a satisfactory balance in hand, but he pointed out to the Chairman that during the past four years they had made a little profit each year. He was glad the accounts were so satisfactory, and thought it was mainly due to the assistance which the Wye College authorities gave them. Their demonstrations proved a great attraction, and helped the "gate" very much. He congratulated the Society on the fact that they were the only local fat stock show that had held its own through bad times, Canterbury and Rye shows having broken up under adverse times. He impressed upon the members the necessity of having some additional attraction at each show such as was provided by the Wye College demonstrations, etc., feeling convinced of the fact that that was greatly responsible for the increase in the gate money. —A hearty vote of thanks was afterwards passed to the Wye College staff for the demonstrations given at the last show.

The Secretary read a letter from Messrs. Garton's, Ltd., seed merchants, respecting the entry of Black Tartarian Oats shown by Capt. Billington and disqualified by the judges on the ground that they were not Black Tartars. They stated that they were much surprised to hear that the judges at the Ashford show talked of disqualifying "Excelstior" Oats on the ground of their not being of Tartarian habit. They forwarded a catalogue showing that the oats were described as Black Tartarian, and further maintained that they were, without exception, the most pronounced Black Tartarian oats at present on the market. —The Secretary was directed to inform Messrs. Garton and Capt. Billington that they could not do otherwise than accept the judges' decision in the matter. It was decided to hold the next annual show on December 12th and 13th, and the date of closing the entries was fixed for November 8th, and post entries on November 15th. Alterations were decided on to two rules, whereby a ten shilling fine was inflicted in respect of each exhibit entered and not shown unless the non-exhibition was due to death or contagious or infectious disease, in which case notice had to be given to the secretary by ten o'clock on the show morning; and also in respect of the last rule, whereby "any person not complying with the rules and bye-laws of the Association shall cease to be a member, and may be debarred from exhibiting at any future show of the Association."

A pleasing social function, which was to some